
XV. *Description of the Corvus leucolophus, or white crowned Crow of India, in a Letter to Aylmer Bourke Lambert, Esq. F.R.S. and A.S. V.P.L.S. By Lieut-Colonel Thomas Hardwicke, F.L.S.*

Read December 1, 1812.

SIR,

IN moments of leisure I occasionally give my attention to the collection of drawings which I formed during a long residence in the East Indies ; and as I am induced to believe some subjects among them belonging to the animal creation are not to be found described in any publication extant, which has yet fallen under my observation, I shall, with permission, when I meet with such as bear the marks of novelty, offer them to the Society for examination, and to be disposed of according to its opinion and judgement.

The subject I now have the honour to submit to the Society is a bird of the genus *Corvus*. In referring it to this genus, however, it is with deference to higher authority, and I believe in coincidence with the opinion of the ablest living Ornithologist, Dr. Latham.

The first inspection of the figure may suggest the propriety of calling this bird

CORVUS

CORVUS LEUCOLOPHUS.

The white crowned Crow.

C. cristatus cinereo-fuscus, capite collo pectoreque niveis, loris temporibusque atris.

TAB. XV.

It is about the size of a jackdaw; in length from tip of the bill to the end of the tail eleven inches three quarters.

Bill sub-conical, the upper mandible convex, both of equal length, with sharp edges; in length one inch three-eighths, very strong, and black.

Nostrils rather high, with short stiff black feathers procumbent on their margins, but not covering them: near the angles of the mouth a few long bristly feathers projecting forward.

Plumage of the head, neck, throat and breast a beautiful white; the feathers of the head rising from the front into a fine crest, and gently bending backwards: the body, wings and tail of uniform ferruginous brown, excepting a narrow line of a lighter brown, which terminates the white towards the body: from the nasal apertures a black line, of about half an inch in breadth, of short feathers extends backwards as far as the auricles, including the eye, and passing in a narrow arched margin over it.

The tail nearly the length of the body, feathers equal, and rounded at their ends.

Legs cinereous; claws black, strong, and much bent, the posterior claw largest.

This bird is a native of the forests in the mountains above Hurdwar, and noticed in my Journey to Sireenagur in 1796. They are found in numbers from twenty to fifty. When assembled



Corvus leucolophus.

Weddell. Sculp.